

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LXVII.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL, 1908.

No. 16

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BIRTH.

On April 10th, at Shanghai, to Mr. and Mrs. VICENT VIZENZINOVICH, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On April 7th, at Shanghai, DAVID HILL YOUNG, of Changtshu, Honan, to EMILY McCaw.

On April 8th, at Shanghai, WARRINGTON H. CORNECOT, to MARGARET (DAISY) PHILLIPS.

DEATHS.

On April 3rd, at Tsingtau, JOHN BAPTIST ROCHE, aged 48 years.

On April 8th, at Shanghai, JOHN DUFF, Engineer, China Merchants' S. N. Co., aged 44 years.

On April 10th, at Shanghai, SAMUEL FREDERICKSON, aged 39 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of March 20th arrived per P. & O. s.s. *Oceana* on the 15th inst. This packet brought the parcel mails which closed in London for despatch by the all-sea route on 11th March and for despatch overland on the 18th March.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

The organisers of the boycott in Hongkong are showing renewed activity. On Thursday morning the police on duty in Queen's Road discovered placards posted on the walls of prominent buildings, containing written injunctions in Chinese to the populace to have nothing to do with anything from Japan. The posters were destroyed. Another feature of the boycott is that moneychangers will not handle Japanese notes.

LICENSING.

A meeting of the Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistracy on April 13th when there were present Messrs J. H. Kemp (who presided), J. R. Wood, P. P. J. Wodehouse, Tseung Sz Kai and W. Bowen-Rowlands. Two applications for liquor licences were presented to the meeting. The first was from Charles Ernest Clifford for the transfer to him from one Thomas Bernard Maguire of the publican's licence to sell by retail intoxicating liquors on the premises, No 2, Pak Shui Wan, under the sign of "The Belle View Hotel." The application was adjourned in order to allow the applicant to produce references.

Kakuzo Uyetsuki applied for an adjunct licence to sell by retail intoxicating liquors on premises numbered 36 and 37, Connaught Road Central under the sign of "Sei Foo Row."

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens, who appeared for the applicant, pointed out that there was no Japanese hotel in the Colony where the Japanese could get their *sake*. It was only lately that that Japanese had taken to doing business in foreign countries and a Japanese hotel was a necessity. In Japan, he remarked, Europeans were allowed to conduct hotels. They were not expected to go outside for their wines, and Mr. Stephens thought it should be reciprocal. The application was made in order to cater for the Japanese, who would feel when they were in their own hotel that they were guarded from trouble. The Japanese clerks in the city also would prefer to be in a hotel of their own rather than go to others. There was no bad name against the hotel—

The Chairman—It has been open for some time?

Mr. Stephens answered in the affirmative. Continuing, he asked that the licence be allowed to run until next November and in the meantime, if the place was not properly conducted, the hotel could be closed.

Two letters—one from Mr. J. H. Newbold and the other from Mr. L. Comar—objecting to the licence being granted were submitted.

Mr. Wood asked—Will you sell foreign wines?

Mr. Stephens—No, *sake* and Japanese beer. He added that no provision was made in the Ordinance for Japanese hotels.

Mr. Wood—Have you made an application to the Government to invent a new licence for Japanese?

Mr. Stephens said he had not.

The Justices discussed the matter *in camera* and the Court was cleared. After about ten minutes the Chairman intimated that the licence would be granted, on condition that the place was properly kept.

KULANGSU (AMOY) MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at the Board Room on the 24th March 1908.

Present:—Messrs. W. H. Wallace (Chairman), C. A. V. Bowra, A. F. Gardiner, Huang Ts'an-chew, N. Kruse, S. Okuyama W. Wilson and the Secretary.

1 The minutes of the last meeting are read and confirmed.

2 General routine business is transacted.

3 The Superintendent of Police reports the following cases have been dealt with at the Mixed Court since the last meeting:—

SUMMONSES.

Attempting to kidnap 1, Allowing pigs and cattle to stray 1, Assault 2, Debt 3, Throwing rubbish into the public drains 1, Interfering with a right of way 1.

SUMMARY ARRESTS.

Gambling 9, Illegally removing soil 1, Creating a disturbance 2, Theft 2, Being abroad after 12 midnight without a light 1, Committing a nuisance 1, Resisting the police 1, Obstructing the police in the execution of their duty 3.

(Signed) W. H. WALLACE.

Chairman.

By order,

C. BERKELEY MITCHELL,

Secretary.

FIRE BRIGADE.

The report of the superintendent of Fire Brigade for the year 1907 states:

There were 39 fires and 76 incipient fires during the year as against 30 and 67 in 1906. The estimated damage caused by fires was \$14,710.65 by incipient fires \$1,541.90. The Brigade turned out 56 times during the year. There was constant supply of water in the fire mains throughout the year. One fire occurred in the harbour during the year. The conduct of the brigade has been good.

STRENGTH OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.

	Europeans.	Chinese
Superintendent,	1	—
Deputy Superintendent,	1	—
Assistant Superintendent,	1	—
Engineer,	1	—
Assistant Engineer and Station Officer,	1	—
Clerk,	—	1
Engine Drivers,	4	2
Assistant Engine Drivers,	3	—
Filter,	—	1
Blacksmith,	—	1
Carpenter,	—	1
Stitchmaker,	—	1
Stokers,	—	7
Overseer of Water Works,	1	—
Inspector of Dangerous Goods,	1	—
Assistant of Do.,	—	1
Foremen,	3	—
Assistant Foremen,	4	—
Firemen,	22	28
Interpreters,	1	3

FLOATING ENGINE.

Foreman and Engine Driver,	1	—
Engine Driver,	—	1
Coxswain,	—	1
Stoker,	—	1
Seamen,	—	2

Total, 45 51

THE REFORMERS.

(Daily Press, April 13th.)

Speaking of those puritans of his day, who were desirous of forcibly converting the world around them to their own peculiarly narrow views of life, old SAMUEL BUTLER made the remark that they would

Atone for sins they were inclined to

By damning others that they had no mind to.

It is our misfortune to live in just such another age of puritanic hypocrisy when every man who does not possess some particular vice is moving heaven and earth to procure an act of Parliament to render it, as he foolishly imagines, impossible for his neighbour to practise. A large section of professedly good people in England do not smoke opium; a large number of professedly good people in China, on the other hand, do smoke opium. Opium annually in China ruins a number of people who smoke more than is good for them. All this is allowed on all sides, and it is also allowed that to convert from smoking the man who smokes to excess, or whose smoking is done to the detriment of his family financially, is a laudable action. But there are many millions of very good people in China who smoke opium, and who do not ruin themselves, nor injure in any way their families, and who on the whole conduct themselves in the affairs of life quite as well as their censors, who are honest and just in their dealings, charitable in act and thought to their neighbours, bring up their families well, and are in every external respect good and useful citizens,—quite as useful in fact as their accusers. Surely such men are entitled to ask of the others, "Who set you up to be rulers and judges over us? Are there no beams in your own eyes that you would worry a world to remove a poor mote from your brother's?"

But the habit is by no means confined to opium; we find even a man aiming at the high position of Prime Minister as little aware of the duty he owes to his fellow man. There are hundreds of thousands in England who drink for the sake of drinking; who when they have money in their pockets, utterly oblivious of their duties towards their families and towards themselves, make straight for the public house, simply for the love of getting drunk; and when drunk not only reduce themselves to the level of beast, but become a source of danger to the community. This too is allowed on all sides. There are others who feel no natural desire for alcohol, who in many cases actually dislike it and feel a repugnance to its taste and smell. This is likewise allowed on all sides. But why should this, except on the principle expressed by old SAMUEL BUTLER, be held to give them any authority to be judges of their neighbours? Far more reasonable would be the contention in any well regulated community that the very fact of their aversion from alcoholic liquors rendered them unfit to sit in judgment. If the counsel for the defence has any reason to believe that one of the jurymen called has some inveterate prejudice against his client, no judge with any idea of justice whatever will object to his challenge. This is the commonsense view of the subject, which till the present conjunction of affairs was always held to be a characteristic of the English nation, and which indubitably has been one of the main causes of its having attained its present position of eminence.

Unfortunately it is not alone on the subjects of opium and alcohol that our modern puritans make themselves towards the world at large, not only unhappy but offensive. There are many instincts implanted in our

nature as being necessary for our existence as a race, or essential for our enjoyment of life, the two being so closely connected that it is impossible to separate them. But although these instincts have been implanted in us for a wise purpose, it is also the fact that the perverse use of them may be injurious, not only to ourselves but to the body politic. The wise administrator knows this to his cost, and seeks so far as he can to restrain excess. He also knows that to seek to extirpate the instinct will as a matter of necessity not only entirely fail, but be productive of worse results even than permitting the instinct to run riot. We may teach a monkey not to take certain things, but by no manner of means can we teach him to comprehend that there is any moral obliquity in stealing in the abstract. Nature has not implanted in him the idea of property. His friend the dog who has a very strong idea of the nature of private property, will disdain to take without permission anything that he knows belongs to his master, and will protect it from others so far as he can. To attempt to restrain the monkey from stealing will not only of necessity be a failure, but will in all probability spoil his good points and make him morose and savage; the trainer of a sheep dog knows how careful he has to be to encourage his pupil in his better instincts, lest in attempting to reform him from what he, the teacher, considers wrong, he may compel him to become a sheep-stealer or murderer. The very last man to reform your drunkard is the self-righteous teetotaler, who holds out the alternative of Hell-fire and damnation, and is unable to perceive how much depends on mere instinct on both sides. So no-one is worse fitted to cure the Chinese of opium smoking than your smug anti-opium ranter, who has never smelt a whiff of opium smoke in his life, and is utterly unable to comprehend that sense of having nothing else to distract his attention from the humdrum of daily existence than the opium pipe. We all have the instinct of climbing to Parnassus, the opium-smoker and the drunkard by seeking to forget their terrestrial environment; and the teetotaler and anti-opiumist by the less charitable method of exalting their own righteousness at the expense of their neighbours, forgetful of their own special iniquities, which they hope to cover by railing at the weakness of their brethren. The worst of all this hypocrisy is that it is the innocent who have to suffer—the plain men and women who have nothing to say to either, but who for no crime of their own find that they for other men's excesses are threatened with the loss of their own livelihood.

Society has never condemned those who for thousands of years have been engaged in the trade of brewing beer or preparing the opium juice; the Bible itself has never flung a taunt at the vine-dresser, and has vaunted on the contrary the work of his hands. Surely after the approbation of milleniums it cannot now be pleaded that all previous generations have been sinners against their consciences, yet it is these innocents on whom the judgment of the wicked threatens to fall. We may well ask who has the right here of judgment? Surely not the self-righteous claimant who seeks to atone for his own shortcomings, by holding up to scorn the weakness of his brother man.

The student of history learns a very different lesson from the past. It is well to remember that not the least influential course in bringing about the debauchery of the Restoration was the self-righteous puritanism of the Commonwealth. We seem to have fallen on such another contemptible period in our national history. The time of

CHARLES II. when King and Parliament were pensioners of Louis XIV. is not a pleasant period to look back on, yet we seem to be doing our utmost to bring it back again.

OLD LAMPS FOR NEW.

(Daily Press, April 14th.)

Into the editorial mail bag come tumbling all sorts of communications, and it is very often the case, no doubt, that those which the public subsequently see are less interesting than the ones withheld. Unsuited for the crowded columns of a daily newspaper, they might be the brightest features of a "notes and queries" magazine. Sometimes it is difficult to know how to regard them. What, for example, is to be said of the following naive communication, coming to us, fully stamped, just as we reproduce it, all the way from Massachusetts?

March 9, 1908.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—It is interesting at times to recur to our own planet, our Home the Earth.

Circumference, about 24,899 miles (equatorial); diameter, 7926 (equatorial); area, some 197,000,000 square miles, volume, 263,000,000,000 cubic miles.

Comparisons. (1) Our Sun has 1,310,000 our volume, and 331,000 times our weight. (2) Our Moon has 1/49 our volume, and 1/81 our weight. (3) Jupiter, 13.9 times as large, and weighs 318 times as much. (4) Mars has about 1/7 of our volume, and 1/10 of our weight.—Sincerely yours,

CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

Brookline, Mass., U.S.A.

24, Stedman St.

Who and what is our friend Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES? Why does he remind us of these disconcerting facts, that we all tacitly agree are best forgotten? Is it that he thinks Hongkong so benighted a place that its inhabitants have perhaps never had the opportunity of hearing such tidings? Is he some new variety of American humourist, perchance, and too subtle for us? If it be a joke we confess we have not yet discerned it. Or is the gentleman a little—er—intellectually dizzy? Thus and thus do we wonder, and then, studying the caligraphy, we seize upon the idea that perhaps Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES is just young enough to have freshly discovered the facts which he so kindly passes on to us at a cost of half a dozen cents gold. Our interest in him waxes greater, and with it, our sympathetic esteem. These biggest of big things have burst upon his understanding, we suppose, and altogether eclipsed the bigness, for him, of the United States and its wonders. After all, those figures are not really so stale as we might at first suppose. They were fresh once, and they are of a sort warranted to keep fresh in any climate. The wisest sayings of SOLOMON must have been platitudes before he set them down in writing, or caused them to be written, and the chance is that he shared some of the pleasurable feeling of the author, just like Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES. This preference of ours for originality is after all based on a dream. There is no such thing in reality. It is not possible. The philosopher who said "there is no new thing under the sun" was saying nothing new when he said so. What we call originality is a matter of defective education, or else of defective memory. NEWTON did not really discover the law of gravitation. Every mother's son before him found it out, just as every one has been discovering it since. NEWTON gets the credit for originality, because he forgot, or didn't know, that the thing was as old as the hills, or older. It is an original

discovery, beyond a doubt, when a young man first sees the Light of the World in a maiden's eyes. He thinks no one else ever found it in just the same way, and he carries on about it, getting quite as much excited as our Massachusetts benefactor seems to have done about the waist measurement of "our planet." To some of us bored know-it-alls, this seems ridiculous; we say there is nothing more novel in that than in a baby's first tooth. Well, Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES of Brookline Mass. has shown us the foolishness of that point of view. It is possible still to be a COLUMBUS. Let those of us who need the reminder take heart of grace, and thank our correspondent in all humbleness, resolving to profit by his example. For is it not stupid to be always trying to give credit to whom credit is not due? It is quite certain that SHERIDAN, say, never uttered all the bright things attributed to him. As for JOE MILLER, perhaps there never was "no such person." This is not mere chaff, please. It is pro bono publico, for the satisfaction of Society. In dining out, who is the most popular person? Not assuredly, the painfully honest person who prefaces some appropriate remark with the formula, "As DAN LENO says," or "as the learned GRORIUS remarks." That sort of misguided honesty casts a damper over any decent dinner party. It sounds so pedantic. The popular conversationalist knows how useless it is to quote and cite. He boldly utters, and personally accepts responsibility for, some remark of TACITUS or TWAINE, and for his moral courage is rewarded with a reputation for wisdom or for wit. There is no unfairness, for he is only doing what TACITUS and TWAINE did before him. Their originalities were about as original as a new blade of grass. Metempsychosis is true, but originality isn't. Only the other day at dinner a man quoted "an awfully smart saying" from the *Overseas Daily Mail*. If he had been sensibly dishonest, and given it as his own, (which he could have done, as he misquoted, anyway) we should have enjoyed it and been satisfied. Under the circumstances, it was imperative to point out that the late JOHN HAY wrote it before ever the *Daily Mail* was heard of. Even then, JOHN HAY merely adapted MARCUS AURELIUS, or KOHALETH, or KUNG FU-TSZE, or somebody similarly remote. We admit we are inconsistent in giving Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES credit for statements we might have presented as our own, but there is no mention of inconsistency in the Decalogue. To condense an Emersonian essay into a phrase like that is as near an approach to originality as we ever hope to get, even with the help of Mr. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

A TEACUP STORM.

(Daily Press, April 15th.)

The nation that sends pioneers usually includes a few samples of hooliganism. The good men go to the front, and the bad follow. It cannot be helped, and all nations have had to blush at times because of the misbehaviour of some of their representatives. It is not just to blame a Government for the misdoings of its ungovernables, not even though a lively prejudice or cherished antipathy makes the opportunity too tempting. Lately Japan has come in for a great deal of adverse criticism, some of which may be justifiable, but of which much undoubtedly is not. The thrilling story of the "Japanese assault on the American Consulate at Mukden" has provided another chance to enhance the badness of Japan's bad name, for those who welcome such

chances, and we suppose by this time it is causing shrieksome headlines on the Pacific Coast. Strange what tricks of humour geographical names perform in the course of events—the Coast Pacific! In reality, to an unbiassed witness, the Mukden incident has no more importance than a fight in Seven Dials. The nationality of the rowdies, and the nationality of the Consulate, has nothing to do with the significance of the case. A Chinese messenger employed by the Consul began it, by objecting to a Japanese postman going into the compound with letters for the Consulate through a private gate, instead of the usual public entrance. The postman seems to have discovered a "short cut," and a short temper as well, because when the Chinaman opposed his use of the former, the postman demonstrated the latter by giving him a beating. From an international point of view, no harm had been done. The Chinese coolie had probably deserved what he got by being rudely officious. Perhaps he had heard of the "Tatsu Maru" case. The Japanese postman's honour might have been satisfied if he had not been interrupted while teaching the coolie his place, but unfortunately the Consul heard the noise, and, white-man-like, separated the two, before either had had enough. The postman went his round, and the office coolie dusted the knees of his pants. Unfortunately, the Japanese postman passed the Consulate on his return, talking with four friends, and saw the coolie again. The coolie also saw him, and it is most probable that both sides expressed their still ruffled feelings. Some taunt seems to have pricked the postman's friends as much as it pricked him. All five ran at the coolie, who fled into the Consulate, pursued by the angry Japanese. The deserving coolie, screaming and yelling, found safety in the Consul's private quarters, and his pursuers meanly voided their vengeful feelings on other coolies whose only offence was that they too wore the pigtail. They defended themselves, and the result was a lively *melee*. The Consul could not disentangle his own retainers till assistance came. When the Chinese police had overwhelmed the units of the scuffling group, the Consul sent for the Japanese police, and meanwhile held four Japanese prisoners. Naturally a crowd gathered, and the Consul seems to have lost his head, as we hear of him producing a revolver, and himself acting as armed escort over the Japanese prisoners, who were ultimately handed over to his Japanese colleague. He protested to the Japanese Consul against trespass on ground covered by the Stars and Stripes, and against the assaulting of his servants, and it is also alleged that he invited an immediate expression of regret and apology, which naturally could not be offered till the Japanese Consul had ascertained all the facts. The American Consul, quite naturally, thought his personal evidence should outweigh the concerted statement of the four Japanese, but, also quite naturally, the Japanese Consul, acting judicially, could not so high-handedly disregard the affirmations of the quartette. He wanted all the depositions, in due form, and was not to be hustled into the summary justice expected by the American Consul, who was now evidently a little excited, and full of the idea of the enormity of the insult to his flag. A dignified patience would have improved his position, for the Japanese undoubtedly had no right to trespass as they did in their private feud with his servants, but the whole business was scarcely worth writing diplomatic letters about.

TOPICS.

(Daily Press, April 16th.)

For many days Hongkong may be hard put to it for subjects of conversation, and since thought and speech demand exercise, we descend as a community to the pettiness of a rural village. The mischief proverbially at the disposal of idle hands tempts also mind and tongue. Then events crowd upon the heels of events, and we are lifted for awhile out of the rut, and called upon to consider matters for which we are ill-prepared. A disastrous typhoon, an administrative crisis, or a commercial boom or slump, keys us up to a pitch that gradually flattens when the normal tedium returns. Just now tragedy fills the picture, and the struggle for the constitutional rights of the Sanitary Board shrinks in the perspective to a temporary insignificance. The anti-Japanese boycott looks more threadbare; the threatened public right to walk on the hillsides of the Colony is not at the moment attracting the champions otherwise forthcoming; and even the pleasurable business of suggesting alternative sites for the new typhoon refuge is deserted; while we all stare with some awe at the vivid illustration of a sudden cessation of a previously much observed energy—at the transformation of a quick and dominating personality—at, in short, the perception of the nearness of that mystery we call Death to the very hive of throbbing life. We do not propose here to moralise. Events like the drowning of this prominent member of our business community make every observer do that for himself. On the tenth day the blessed Lethe that meanders continually through the souls of men will have washed away all thought of it, and only a ripple—perhaps the effect upon the Hongkong University enterprise, for instance—will revive the memory of what was, and the melancholy of the might-have-been.

It is profitable, as a check on extravagance, to have these reminders of evanescence, mutability, and fickleness. We care very much for a little while; and then we do not care. There is no happy mean between fervour and callousness, excitement and indifference, and this want of balance affects Hongkong as much as any place. At the time of "the" typhoon, and at intervals afterwards, we were all saying, or endorsing and applauding the saying, that no matter what it might cost, we must have an adequate typhoon anchorage. Slowly the official machine got in motion; presently out came a scheme intended to meet the popular demand. But by this time the thrill of tragedy had passed away; we are saying the details of the scheme are not satisfactory; we are saying the cost is too high. Outsiders might think of the bloated corpses that haunted our harbour two Octobers past, might endure any thought save the perception of a possible recurrence of those grisly scenes. They might say that the provision of a more accessible shelter for all the native craft that minister to the shipping trade were a necessity for which our shipping should ungrudgingly contribute. A body like the Chamber of Commerce is not swayed by sentiment. With the business prosperity of the shipping in its care, it turns a coldly calculating business-like eye upon the subject. Its advice to the Government must weigh, for it has more in it of permanence than an emotional popular clamour. The Government is moved in both ways; what it would depend on what it could. Ways and means must modify its wishes. One way, apparently, was to suddenly increase the charge for lighter licences, and this must eventually affect the

shipping which is to be called upon for further contributions so long as the new refuge leaves any indebtedness. Provision for the safety of the eggs may be too dearly bought by the crippling of the parent bird, to vary the adage; and so it is to be hoped that the officials will not be "too set" on their present scheme, but take the sense of the Chamber and of the shipping community. It should be possible to provide convenient shelters without expensive frills to them, and we hope that the Chamber of Commerce, which entertains this idea, will cause an acceptable alternative suggestion to be submitted.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on April 14th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president), presided, and there were also present Lieut. Col. Martin, Hon. Mr. Irvine, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, Mr. H. A. W. Slade, Mr. Lau Chu-pak, and Dr. J. W. W. Pearce (Medical Officer of Health) and Mr. Messer (Secretary.)

THE NEW SECRETARY.

A letter was read from the Government intimating that Mr. C. McI. Messer had been appointed to act as Secretary to the Board during the absence on leave of Mr. G. A. Woodcock, or until further notice.

THE AMENDING ORDINANCE.

The PRESIDENT stated that the various matters referring to the Public Health Ordinance Amendment were dealt with at the meeting on 6th April. With regard to the copy of the Bill and Mr. Lau Chu Pak's minute thereon a letter had been forwarded to the Government informing them of what the Board had approved and of what it had disapproved, also stating that consideration of the sections not referred to had been postponed. He understood there would be a meeting between the Colonial Secretary and the Director of Public Works with the architects on Wednesday. With reference to the correspondence on the Bill a letter had been received from Mr. Brewin which he proposed to attach to papers and re-circulate.

Mr. HOOPER said that the Chinese landowners had employed an architect to criticise the Bill and he would like to know if there was anything in that report if they could reopen their consideration of the Bill.

The PRESIDENT replied that the report could be further discussed.

WATER CLOSETS.

The report of the committee appointed to consider the question of permitting water closets in buildings in Kowloon was submitted. The committee reported that they were of the opinion that the objections which had been raised were not sufficient to justify the refusal of water closets in the case of European houses within the area mentioned, between Kowloon Point and Gai Coyne Road. They recommended that a systematic inspection be made once a month of water closets sanctioned within that district.

The PRESIDENT thought that the answer to Mr. Humphreys was that there were so few water closets in the Colony. The question, he proceeded, had been referred to a committee and voluminous papers dealing with the subject had been issued. It was necessary for the Board to come to some decision as to whether water closets were to be allowed in Kowloon or not. If they were to allow them at Kowloon it followed they must do so in Victoria, that was in the European houses. They could not make fish of one and fowl of another. It appeared that the argument put forward in the report of the committee did not show there would be much harm to the public health if this were allowed. The tides at Kowloon Point were sufficiently strong to carry away any excreta likely to cause mischief. On the other hand if water closets were introduced in Kowloon they would have to be granted generally throughout the Colony. When they considered that 50,000 would thereby discharge their excreta into the

waters of the harbour they ought to hesitate to agree to the principle of water closets for European houses throughout the Colony. The Harbour Master was asked for his opinion and asked as to the condition of the water compared with what it was fifteen years ago. Mr. Molver reported that the foreshore off Wauchai was fouler than it was, the reason being that there was not so much current at that part as formerly partly due to the reclamation at Causeway Bay. He stated however that the tides off Kowloon Point were much stronger than they were 15 years ago. It appeared from his report that the condition of the water in the East was fouler than before and it would likely be worse if they allowed water closets in the European houses in the Colony.

Mr. HOOPER pointed out that the report dealt only with Kowloon and he for one did not consider the question as it affected Victoria. The remarks of the President ought to be confined to Kowloon.

The PRESIDENT: But the principle would apply to this side.

The PRESIDENT having read the report, Mr. HUMPHREYS said that considerable stress had been laid upon the prospect of possible danger from the introduction of water closets but questioned if it would be possible to have a general introduction of water closets because the Sanitary Board always insisted that where water closets are allowed there must be an independent water supply. In many cases it would be quite impossible to get an independent water supply and in all cases it would certainly be expensive. These two causes would make the introduction of water closets general. On the other hand they were convenient and cleanly for clubs, hotels and rich men's houses and were sanitary. If any one liked to have them he saw no reason why they should not be allowed. As to the fouling of the foreshore he would like to know what percentage came from mail boats, from sampans and from water closets. Not a tenthousandth part would be due to water closets. Foreshores always smelt at low tide. He had been in places in England where there was no sewage but yet a most offensive smell came from the foreshore at low tide. The same thing would be found up the river towards Canton where there was no sewage. As to the drains interfering with the roofs of trees that was absurd. He moved the adoption of the report of the committee.

Mr. SLADE seconded.

On a vote being taken, five supported the motion and only the PRESIDENT and Mr. IRVINE voted against it. The motion was carried.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

A minute was submitted from the Registrar General recommending the amendment of the definition of a common lodging house. He pointed out that the present definition was made so wide that it included a great many premises it was never intended to include. The houses for which it was intended to legislate were coolie houses but many other premises were now included and every now and then the question came up for discussion at the Board and the Board assumed a discretion which it did not legally possess and decided not to enforce the law as it stood. He further suggested that the bye-laws might be amended with utility. They were obviously adopted from the regulations for common lodging houses in England and he did not think such a thing existed in Hongkong as a common lodging house. The nearest approach to it was an opium divan.

STREET WATERING.

Correspondence was submitted relative to the street watering in East Point and to the nuisance caused by the absence of water carts from that part of the city.

VEGETABLE MARKET AT YAUMATI.

A minute by the Director of Public Works reporting that the work of preparing a site for the Vegetable Market at Yaumati has been completed and was transmitted to the Board for information of the members.

Mr. HOOPER wrote—I should like to see the contract for watering the streets and the correspondence with the Tramway Co., showing what proportion they pay towards the watering.

AN INSPECTOR'S POWERS.

Correspondence was read relative to the authority to Inspector Sutherland (who is newly appointed) to take legal proceedings when authorised by the Board.

Mr. HOOPER minuted—This seems unnecessary as no inspector ever prosecutes without the sanction of the Medical Officer of Health, etc. The prosecutor should be the Medical Officer of Health and the inspector called as witness.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—I think so too.

CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT of POLICE.—Unnecessary I should say because the Secretary or the Medical Officer of Health signs the application for summons. The Inspector can conduct the prosecution.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Mortality Statistics showed that the death-rate for the week ended 21st March was— for the British and foreign community, 15.8 per 1,000 as against 32.8 in the corresponding week of last year, and for the whole Colony 21.6 per 1,000 as against 21.9 in the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended 28th March—British and foreign community, 15.8 per 1,000 as compared with 18.2 per 1,000 in the corresponding week of last year, and for the whole Colony 22.1 as against 15.8 in the corresponding week of last year.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr. SHELTON HOOPER gave notice that at next meeting he would move "That this Board recommends the Governor to give legislative effect in the proposed new ordinance amending the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903 to the instructions of His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan that all Government buildings be placed under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Board."

DEATH OF MR. A. H. RENNIE.

FOUND DROWNED.

Hongkong thrilled on April 14th with the news of the death by drowning of Mr. A. H. Rennie, manager of the Flour Mills at Junk Bay. He was seen about the streets of the city during the morning, laughing and talking apparently in good health and spirits, and many people refused to believe the news, which, as it passed from mouth to mouth, was to the effect that he had jumped overboard deliberately from his launch.

The facts so far confirmed are as follows. Mr. Rennie left his office about three o'clock in the afternoon, and went aboard his launch, the "Canada," to go to the mills. His dead body was landed at the Police Wharf a couple of hours later, by his own crew. The weather was squally, and a choppy sea was running. The usual methods of restoring animation to the apparently drowned were applied, assiduously and perseveringly, but without success.

Witnesses who claimed to have authentic information assured our representative that the crew of Mr. Rennie's launch declare that it was a case of deliberate suicide. It was (according to the Chinese) in Lyceum Pass that Mr. Rennie jumped overboard, from the portrails. The launch was stopped as soon as the coxswain realized what had happened, and the Chinese got Mr. Rennie out of the water, already dead they say. They took him as fast as possible to the Police Pier at Kowloon, whence, after unsuccessful efforts to bring him to, the body was put on the "Canada" again and taken to the Mortuary. Someone halfmasted the flag, and this it was that let the news become so speedily public.

Another version of the occurrence is that Mr. Rennie went out on the launch for his usual daily visit to Junk Bay. His boy prepared tea on board but Mr. Rennie declined to partake of any saying that he was not feeling well. Shortly afterwards, he left the cabin, the floor of which is flush with the deck, and stood for a moment at the taffrail. Before the crew could realise what had happened, Mr. Rennie was overboard. One of the coxswains, whose name we have not learned, jumped after him and attempted to rescue him. The sea was choppy and swimming would be difficult, especially for a man fully clothed. He did not reach his

master in time to save him, but he managed to retrieve the body which with the assistance of the other members of the crew was got on board. On the return journey the whistle was blown continuously and this attracted the attention of the officer in charge of the police launch who went out to meet the "Canada," and obtained the story from the Chinese. On the Police wharf Dr. Ainslie tried the usual methods of resuscitation but without avail. Mr. Rennie's dispatch box, handed over to the police at the same time as the body, appeared to have been in the water. The body was subsequently removed to the mortuary at Kennedytown.

In response to our enquiries at the Water Police Station the officials declined to make any statement.

According to *Who's Who in the Far East*, to which the late Mr. Rennie had given the particulars, Alfred Herbert Rennie, J.P., was born on Nov. 17th, 1857. He completed his education at a Toronto college, and became confidential clerk to the Hon. John Norquay, the premier and provincial treasurer of Manitoba. In 1890 he joined the Hongkong Civil Service as a correspondence clerk in the Public Works Department, and subsequently acted as Acting Assistant Harbourmaster and Acting Superintendent of the Water Police (1892) Acting Superintendent and Secretary Sanitary Board (1893).

Since then he has been in commerce. He began as importing agent for Canadian and other flour, and is understood to have done a big and profitable business. He came prominently before the public within the last two years as the promoter of the huge undertaking at Junk Bay, and it is very few weeks ago that he was pointing proudly to the success of it. Privately we know that he had ambition to come forward as a publicist in the early future, and he certainly took a keen interest in administrative matters affecting the interests of the Colony. His comments on public questions were usually very shrewd and pointed and direct. On all hands, and during his life, so that it is no mere post mortem compliment, his marvellous energy and industry were commented on and his business abilities generally admitted.

Not for many years has the community of Hongkong received such a shock as followed the news of the untimely death of Mr. Rennie. His friends and associates could scarcely believe the sad intelligence but the grim reality became apparent when the remains of the gentleman who was so conspicuous for his marvellous energy and keen business capacity were laid to rest. The all absorbing topic of conversation on April 15th was Mr. Rennie's tragic end. The sensation it created was profound. Certainly Hongkong was deeply moved over the death of this citizen, and his disappearance from the scene of so many activities will be felt.

As to the tragedy itself, details are coming to hand which make the events of Tuesday afternoon stand out more clearly. Before Mr. Rennie jumped overboard he had fastened the despatch box, which is fairly large and weighty, round his neck with a cord. After he took the fateful leap the first coxswain threw a buoy overboard, but, as Mr. Rennie made no attempt to reach it, the second coxswain jumped in after his master. As he approached him Mr. Rennie either said or indicated that he did not wish the buoy, and put his face under water. Some little time elapsed before the body was recovered, but life was then extinct.

It has since transpired that Mr. Rennie must have contemplated taking his life. On Tuesday he arranged personal affairs, and even wrote, so it is stated, a letter to his wife.

Suicide is clearly suggested by the accounts of the affair, and there has naturally been much speculation in the Colony regarding the circumstances which could have driven a man of Mr. Rennie's buoyant disposition to such an act of desperation. An explanation is generally sought in the recent state of the wheat market. It has long been public property that in consequence of the shortage in the world's wheat crop, Mr. Rennie made heavy purchases for the Junk Bay flour mills and had been importing large cargoes in anticipation of a big rise in the price of wheat and flour. Events, however, have so far falsified his predictions; the financial crisis in the United

States has proved a factor in the wheat market which a few months ago could not have entered into the calculations of the most far-sighted and sagacious of men. And on top of this has recently come a heavy slump in Pacific freights, flour being now carried across at half the rate which obtained down to within the past fortnight. This slump has been brought about, we understand, by the Chinese boycott of Japanese trade, which has had the effect of causing the Japanese lines to separate themselves from the Conference, and a freight war has resulted.

To what extent this unexpected turn of events has affected the prospects of the business with which Mr. Rennie was so prominently identified time alone can tell, but the serious disappointment of his sanguine hopes and expectations may have been too much for a nervous system already overstrung by the mental strain which the initiation of such an important enterprise as the Junk Bay Flour Mills must have entailed.

Sir Paul Chater and Mr. Mody who were so intimately associated with Mr. Rennie in this enterprise reposed unlimited confidence in his business acumen and ability as well as in his personal integrity. The deep sympathy is felt for Mrs. Rennie in her sudden bereavement.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. It was very quiet and only a few of his friends and business associates attended. These joined the cortege at the Monument and followed to the graveside in the Protestant Cemetery, where the Rev. J. T. Johnson officiated and pronounced the committal sentences. The chief mourners were Sir Paul Chater and Mr. H. N. Mody. The other present were Sir Henry Berkeley, the Hon. Mr. Rees Davies (Attorney General), Capt. in Fleming representing H. E. the Governor, the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Dr. Sanders, Messrs. W. Macdonald Parr, B. Leighton, G. Liebert (French Consul), Ho Fook, J. C. Peter, G. C. C. Master, C. A. Lowe, H. Percy Smith, J. Hastings, A. Seth, H. Seth, S. A. Seth, H. F. Chard, G. P. Lammert, W. L. Weaver, L. Berindague, etc.

The coffin was made of English oak and was mounted with brass furnishings. The breast plate was inscribed—

Alfred Herbert Rennie,

Age 51 years,

Died 14th April, 1908.

The floral tributes were very beautiful. The senders were:—Sir Paul Chater, Mr. H. N. Mody, Mr. R. Yoneda, Messrs. Weaver and Raven, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Tung, Mr. Ho Fook, Mr. and Mrs. Tang Lau Kok, Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Wei Yuk, Mr. G. P. Lammert, Office Boy A. Cheong, Mr. and Mrs. Li Wai Lum, Mr. Au Young Kit, Mr. James, Dr. J. W. Noble, Mr. C. E. Warren, Mr. B. L. A. Howard, Mr. Wm. Lysaght, Mr. Leung Shiu Kong, Mr. S. A. Ahmed, Mr. and Mrs. B. Layton, Mr. Tak Cheong, Capt. W. Downer, Commodore R. H. S. Stokes, Dr. Ho Nai Hop, Mr. Kwan Kai, Dr. and Mrs. F. O. Stedman, Office Staff Hongkong Milling Co., Mr. Harold Selth, Capt. and Mrs. Godfrey Wait, Hongkong Milling Co., Junk Bay Staff, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Peter, From the Servants who say, "He was always so kind," Mr. and Mrs. G. C. C. Master, Dr. and Mrs. Jordan, Messrs. Cornell Bros., Mr. H. R. Chard, Mr. Lam Ping Woon, Mr. G. P. Lammert, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Siebs, Mr. Leung Shiu-kong, Mr. Sam Ayak, Mr. G. S. Cruickshank, Mr. and Mrs. A. Seth, Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Black, Mr. Yee Kee, and Messrs. Arnhold Karberg & Co.

We are requested to state that no notice of the hour fixed for the funeral of the late Mr. A. H. Rennie having reached either Government House or the Colonial Secretary's Office till just before a meeting which the Governor had convened for the consideration of the Public Health and Buildings Bill and at which the Colonial Secretary, the Director of Public Works, the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai and Messrs. A. Turner, A. H. Ough and A. Denison were present, His Excellency was unable to postpone the meeting to attend the funeral. We are also authoritatively informed that His Excellency "had fully intended to be present in person." As it was, Capt. Fleming, A.D.C., went to represent him.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on April 16th in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR FREDERICK JOHN DEALTRY LUGARD, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.

His Excellency the Officer Commanding the Troops, Colonel C. H. DARLING.

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. W. REES DAVIES, (Attorney-General).

Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM, C.M.G. (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Mr. E. A. IRVING (Registrar-General).

Hon. Commander BASIL R. H. TAYLOR, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.

Hon. Mr. E. OSBORNE.

Hon. Mr. MURRAY STEWART.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. MURRAY STEWART took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of the Council.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following papers—Reports of the Captain Superintendent of Police and of the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade for the year 1907, Financial Returns for the year 1907, Report on Queen's College for the year 1907, Report of the Director of the Hongkong Observatory for the year 1907, Returns of the Police Magistrate's Courts for the year 1907, and Report of the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table Financial minutes Nos. 14 and 15, and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by direction of H. E. the Governor, laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 5), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

CHINESE EXTRADITION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, this bill has been introduced in order to make a slight alteration in the original ordinance of 1889 in consequence of a ruling given lately by the Full Court. The Treaty of Tientsin upon which the Ordinance of 1889 was based used the words "Chinese authorities." That has been interpreted in the Ordinance to mean the Chinese Government, but following the ruling of the Full Court it would be necessary to obtain a pledge that the prisoner would not be tried for any offence other than that for which he was extradited and if so, he would be first returned to His Majesty's dominions. It would be necessary to obtain that consent from the Central Government itself and not from the local authorities in the Two Kwang Provinces. Since, however, the ordinance does not use the actual words employed in the Treaty upon which it is based this ordinance is intended to interpret what the meaning of the words Chinese authorities shall be. We have introduced a short clause to make it clear that Chinese Government shall include the Viceroy or other officer administering a Provincial Government. This is in accordance with what has been the

practice in the Colony since the passing of the Ordinance in 1889 and introduces no new procedure.

The Bill was read a first time.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I ask the permission of the Council to move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to allow this bill to pass through its subsequent stages. It is simple in character and it is desirable that it should be given effect to as soon as possible.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council then resolved itself into committee to consider the bill clause by clause.

On the Council resuming,

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FOREIGN CORPORATIONS ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to enable Foreign Corporations to acquire and hold land in the Colony. He said—Sir, the preamble of the Bill practically states the object of it—“Whereas doubts have arisen as to the power of Foreign Corporations to hold land in the Colony; and whereas it is expedient to remove such doubts and to enable such Corporations to hold and acquire land therein.” Several Ordinances, Sir, have recently been passed in regard to individual companies the desire being to ensure that foreign corporations which acquire land in the Colony shall have a good title and shall be in no way handicapped by the fact that they are foreign corporations. The Government is of opinion that instead of passing piecemeal legislation dealing with individual companies, that it is desirable to have a general Ordinance to admit foreign corporations which by virtue of their constitution acquire land and dispose of removable property within the Colony to do so subject to their complying with the requirements of the Ordinance. I may say, Sir, that this Bill is rather more elaborate than the Ordinance recently passed. It is based on the same lines. It has been fully considered. Persons outside the Government have had an opportunity of looking into it and it has been generally accepted. It is more general in scope and more comprehensive in its character. The object is to ensure that the Government will not have to deal with individuals who make applications in regard to the acquisition of land. There should be a comprehensive measure to deal with the whole subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council afterwards went into committee to consider the bill clause by clause.

On resuming, His EXCELLENCY reported that the bill had passed through committee.

WHARF AND GODOWN CO'S BYELAWS.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorize the making of Bye-laws by the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company Limited. He said—This bill confers on a certain company, the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, the power of making bye-laws in connection with the conduct of its business and the maintenance of order on its premises. It was considered that the law of Hongkong was not adequate as to trespass on private property and the Government regards the circumstances as of exceptional character and considers that such a bill giving the powers shown in the draft attached may be fairly approved. Power, Sir, is reserved to the Governor in Council to approve or reject from time to time any byelaws passed by the Company and that power we think is a sufficient check on any byelaws that might be submitted which might encroach on the public interest. The draft of the bill has been approved by the Chamber of Commerce here and the Government see no objection to it.

The Hon. Mr. KESWICK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Council afterwards went into committee to consider the Bill.

On resuming,

His EXCELLENCY reported that the bill had passed through committee without amendment.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—This bill being entirely non-controversial I ask the permission of the Council to move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order that the bill be passed through the subsequent reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was read a third time, and passed into law.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDINGS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL.

The next order of the day was the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, and The Public Health and Buildings Amendment Ordinance, 1903.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—With regard to the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance 1903, the second reading has been moved but I understand it is not intended to proceed with it to-day and I therefore move the adjournment of the debate.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council stands adjourned till this day fortnight. There will be a meeting of the Finance Committee afterwards.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held afterwards—the Colonial Secretary presiding. The following votes were passed:

STREET FIRE ALARMS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of three thousand three hundred Dollars (\$3,300) in aid of the vote, Police and Prison Departments, Fire Brigade, Special Expenditure, Street Fire Alarms.

SCHOOL REPAIRS.

The Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of eight hundred Dollars (\$800) in aid of the vote Education, A—Inspector of School, Other Charges, Saiyungpun Anglo-Chinese School, Rent of Temporary Quarters.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 13th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

AN INTERESTING POINT.

Lo Leung Yau otherwise Leung Tai Koo brought an action against the Tang Hang Yu otherwise Thong Hang Dye for the recovery of \$1,000. Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for plaintiff and Mr. E. J. Grist for defendant.

The statement of claim set forth:—(1) The plaintiff is a widow and resides at No. 216 Des Vaux Road Central, Victoria. (2) The defendants are traders and carry on business at No. 237 Wing Lok Street, Victoria. (3) On the 17th day of July 1906 the plaintiff at Macassar remitted to the defendants in Hongkong the sum of \$1,000 through the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij by bill of exchange. (4) The said bill of exchange was handed by the plaintiff to the defendants on her arrival in Hongkong on or about the 3rd August 1906 for collection on her behalf and for her use and benefit. (5) The defendants collected the said sum of \$1,000 from the Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij. (6) The plaintiff has demanded from the defendants the sum of \$1,000, but the defendants refused to pay.

The statement of defence set forth that the defendant firm had become bankrupt and that the plaintiff had received dividends on the amount due.

Mr d'Almada stated that the plaintiff after a residence of twenty years in Macassar came to Hongkong, bringing with her this draft on the Holland Bank for \$1,000 and four other drafts on the Chartered Bank. On her arrival in Hongkong she went to the defendant firm and handed the draft of \$1,000 to them, at the same

time telling them that she wanted the money before she went to Canton as \$400 of that amount belonged to another woman. Defendants promised to collect the money, and she then handed over to them the other four drafts for collection. Those amounted in all to \$2,600. Plaintiff said that she wished this money in order to purchase certain property in Canton. Proceeding Mr. d'Almada said that his friend was raising the point that plaintiff could not split her cause of action and if his Lordship agreed with that contention then plaintiff would be non-suited.

Mr. Grist submitted that on the showing of his friend they had received \$3600 and he would argue that the plaintiff could not sue for the repayment of only one of those separate drafts. Immediately those drafts were cashed the money received in respect of them became one total sum. The money was not earmarked in respect of each draft. Taking the figures as correct there was a sum of \$3600 due and not \$1000, and, to bring it within the jurisdiction of the Summary Court, the usual practice was to waive any amount over the \$1000. His friend did not waive any cause of action he might have against defendants, in seeking the recovery of that \$1000 out of the moneys had and received by the defendants for the use of the plaintiff, but his intention was to proceed with other actions.

His Honour—Is that so?

Mr. d'Almada—So far I believe these are my instructions.

Mr. Grist added that in the event of his clients being bankers and receiving small sums amounting in all to \$1000 it would not be competent to sue on each of those individual payments because they were merged in the greater sum.

His Honour—One debt?

Mr. Grist—Yes, not several debts.

Mr. d'Almada said the drafts were on different banks and though the drafts were paid in on the same day they were handed in at different times.

His Honour—You say there were two separate transactions?

Mr. d'Almada—Yes, they were drafts on different banks.

His Honour—You are suing on the Dutch Bank draft?

Mr. d'Almada—Yes.

His Honour—Suppose you recover in this action you would still have to go to the Original Jurisdiction.

Mr. d'Almada—I would have to go to the Original Jurisdiction for the \$2600. I could not split that up.

His Honour—I think I had better consider the point.

Mr. d'Almada—We would like to have the ruling of your Lordship.

Tuesday, 14th April.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

NO DEFENCE.

Abdool Khan sued Fazel Ahmed for \$91.34 balance due for money lent and goods supplied. Mr. Gardiner, from the office of Messrs. Brutton and Hett, appeared for the plaintiff, but defendant did not enter an appearance.

Evidence was heard and judgment given for plaintiff.

A GARNISHEE ISSUE.

Cheung Kin Ho, judgment creditors v. Cheung Sing Chi and others, judgment debtors and Sooh Yau Kee, 112 Station Street Mongkoktsui, garnishee claim for \$146.08. Mr. Gardiner appeared for the judgment debtor, and Mr. Holmes for the garnishee.

Cheung Sing Chi, lately managing partner in his firm, said that before closing his business he supplied goods to the garnishee. He was paid for some of the goods, but the whole of the amount was not settled, and though he requested payment he never received it. He had not authorised anyone to collect the amount of \$146.80 from the garnishee. Yee Hoi Cheung was not an employee of witness.

His Lordship gave judgment for creditors.

Thursday, 17th April.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

THE INTERPRETATION OF A CHARTER PARTY.

Judgment was given in the case in which the Man Cheong Yuen firm claimed from the Fukusei Company 527 bags of rice belonging to the plaintiffs in the possession of defendants or \$5,176.94 (the value thereof and \$500 damages for detention thereof). Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiff, and defendants were represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. E. Beavis.

His Lordship said:—I am glad that the parties acquiesced in my suggestion to furnish me with an assessor to assist me in deciding the question which arises on this charter-party. As I anticipated, I should have given, though with much hesitation, a decision which would have not been satisfactory to either party. I have however waived the opinion I had formed, both on account of what I must admit to be the superior knowledge in relation to the question in dispute of the gentleman chosen by the parties to assist me, and also because I feel that a judgment resting on his experienced opinion will be more satisfactory to the parties, and that opinion is based on substantial reasoning. It will, I think, be useful, however, to state what I conceive to be an intelligent construction of this contract, because gentlemen engaged in commerce, in shipping especially, are apt to put their ideas into short forms; and though it may well be that both parties believe they understand what they mean, they sometimes fall out over the meaning, and it is well that they should realise the difficulties which this concise language presents to the mind of an ordinary lawyer. The plaintiffs entered into a charter party with the defendants in respect of the s.s. "Koun Maru." She was described as of 43/45,000 piculs carrying capacity or thereabouts, and chartered for despatch to Saigon there to receive a full and complete cargo of rice, and/or paddy, and/or broken rice, and/or rice flour, and/or other lawful merchandise. The ship was to carry a full cargo, her carrying capacity being estimated in piculs of rice. But it was contemplated that she might also carry paddy and rice flour; and these commodities, although packed in the same sized bags, bulk larger than rice in proportion to their weight. Clause 16 provides that the freight is to be paid as follows:—24 cents for every picul of what I will call rice; 25 per cent. additional freight for every picul of what I will call paddy, and 50 per cent. additional freight for every picul of what I will call flour. Clause 17 provides that "if a mixed cargo be shipped, freight to be paid at the above rate on the estimated capacity of the vessel, say on 45,000 piculs at 24 cent per picul." As a matter of fact only about 41,000 piculs of rice, paddy and flour were shipped; but the plaintiffs paid at the agreed rate of 24 cents as for 45,000 piculs. When reduced to the standard of rice piculs the ship actually carried about 49,000 piculs. The plaintiffs also shipped 236 bundles of fish. They claim that they had shipped a "mixed cargo" which by clause 17 was to be paid for as for 45,000 piculs at 24 cents whether with or without the fish. The defendants claim to charge them at the rates specified in clause 16, i.e. so many of rice at 24 cents, so many piculs of flour at 30 cents, and so many piculs of paddy at 36 cents. The point which I do not understand about their attitude is with regard to the fish: they say its introduction does not make the cargo "mixed," yet there is no rate provided which they could charge for it. As I read this charter party it seemed to me to mean that the rates given were contemplated for a complete cargo of rice, flour or paddy, the increased percentages of the rate being settled in some way proportioned to the increase of bulk per picul of the different goods: but that if the cargo be of rice, flour, and paddy mixed, then in order to equalise matters the above rate—i.e. 24 cents per picul—is to be paid on the whole capacity of the ship, estimated in rice bags, say on

45,000 piculs: the repetition of the rate being introduced for greater caution. This view seemed to me to be borne out by clause 19 which provides for loading and discharging rice and paddy: and more so by clause 20 (which was not however filled in and was deleted) that charterers should have the option of shipping up to a certain quantity of bags each of rice, flour and paddy. The reference to "other lawful merchandise" seemed to me to be introduced for the purpose of indicating that the charterer was not strictly limited to rice, flour and paddy: and if there were sufficient of it in the holds with the rice, etc. to constitute "cargo" the term "mixed cargo" would cover it. On the other hand I could not have brought myself to believe that, even if "mixed cargo" meant not what I thought, but rice, flour, and or paddy, plus some other merchandise, the addition of even 20 tons of fish, being so small a proportion of the whole cargo, would have made the cargo "mixed" within clause 17. But my assessor will not have any of this construction at any price: I have put him the following questions:—(a) Is a cargo composed of a certain quantity of rice, flour, and/or paddy, a "mixed cargo" within clause 17? His answer is "No, according to the custom of the Saigon Hongkong trade, a cargo is not a 'mixed cargo' within the meaning of clause 17, unless other cargo not mentioned in the charter party such as matches, piece-goods, machinery or fish, is shipped in the holds together with rice, flour, and/or paddy." (b) Is a cargo composed of any quantity of rice, flour, and/or paddy, together with 236 bags of fish a "mixed cargo"? His answer is "Yes; in my opinion this is, or even as less amount would be, sufficient to constitute a 'mixed cargo' if shipped in the holds; and this opinion is based on my knowledge of the custom of the trade; for this clause 17 is introduced for the benefit of both parties. On the one hand, the charterers having to ship a full cargo, may not be able to fill up the ship with rice, flour or paddy, and therefore are allowed to fill up with any other lawful merchandise; on the other hand, the owners in order to protect themselves against possible loss from the out-turn of a mixed cargo, stipulate for freight to be paid on the ship's maximum deadweight capacity, which in this case is shown to be more than 45,000 piculs. The dispute has clearly arisen owing to an under-estimate of the ship's carrying capacity." I adopt these answers, because they are not merely based on experience of the trade, but also because they seem to me to be justified by the reasoning on which the assessor has supported them. There is one point undetermined by the evidence: Were the bags of fish shipped in the holds? The assessor is of opinion that this is important to the definition of "cargo," and that if they were on deck the condition of the charter party, as he has interpreted it, would not be satisfied. I assume that there can be no difficulty between the parties in determining this question. Subject to this, judgment will be for the plaintiffs for \$5,176.94, but without damages for detention with costs; costs of the assessor—\$50 to be costs in the cause.

Mr. Siebs sat as assessor.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
(SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT).

UNSUCCESSFUL COAL MERCHANT.

Chan Tso Sheng, who formerly carried on a coal business in Des Voeux Road Central came up for his public examination. In answer to the Official Receiver (Mr. Wakeman) debtor stated that he was the sole proprietor of the business, which he commenced in March 1903 with a capital of \$5,000. The steamer "Wing Chi" was mortgaged to witness for \$6,000 for debts due for goods supplied to the s.s. "Wing Hing." The steamer was now at Hunghom and had been seized by the court in another action. The "Wing Hing" never belonged to him but he supplied coal for the steamer. He had never any interest in the company which owned the vessels. Two Japanese companies were his principal creditors. He was informed on December 10th last that one of his foks had run away with \$236 which he had collected.

An order for adjudication was granted.

PIECE GOODS DEALERS' FAILURE.

Re the Yat Shing Loong firm. Mr. P. W. Goldring appeared for the petitioning creditor. Wong Sing Chan managing partner of the Yat Shing Loong firm, questioned by the Official Receiver, said the firm carried on business as piece goods dealers at 6 Mercer Street. He had seven partners and the total capital was \$10,000, of which his share was \$3,500. The others were all sleeping partners. The Yokohama Specie Bank had a claim against the firm for \$39,491 for drafts which he had accepted for and on behalf of the Wing Sheng Loong firm of Kobe. Neither the money nor the goods had been sent him but he had met the drafts. The book debts still owing him were \$8551. There was more due to him but he thought that amount was recoverable. Other debts were due by other people outside the Colony. Several firms that he showed as owing him money now said they had paid, and produced receipts. It was probable the money had been collected by one of his foks who had gone away. He was quite sure he had not received the money.

Examination closed.

ANOTHER FAILURE.

Lam Wing, alias Lam Wing Ip, trading as Hang Wo Wing Kee, came up for his public examination.

Questioned by the Official Receiver, he said he was sole proprietor of the Hang Wo Wing Kee firm which he had carried on for thirteen years. He paid \$800 for the business and \$400 for the book debts but he had not been able to collect them.

You have a lot of bad debts now?—Yes.

His Lordship—Has he any good ones?

The Official Receiver—He has a few, my Lord.

In your list of debts due for over twelve years you show \$1400?—Yes.

Is that correct?—Yes.

You state that you do not know their addresses or occupations?—I have not been able to trace them.

Is that business like?—No answer.

When you gave them credit did you inquire for their addresses?—Yes, I noted their addresses.

Continuing, debtor said he had borrowed a deal of money during the past two years. He had also sold goods on credit for which he could not recover money. That was because many of his debtors had failed in business, or had left the colony.

The examination was closed.

HOWARD AND COMPANY.

Re Herbert Stephens, lately carrying on business under the style of Howard and Co. No. 33, Queen's Road Central, public examination.

Mr. Wakeman said there was a proposal to come before an adjourned meeting of creditors next Wednesday. He thought therefore it would be better to adjourn the application.

His Lordship consented.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. H. H. J. GOMPERTZ (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE).

A LADY AND HER TAILOR.

A Portuguese lady named C. M. Ozorio sued Cheong Kam Lee, tailor, Lyndhurst Terrace, for nine dollars, the value of cloth given for a dress. The plaintiff stated that she gave the defendant six yards of cloth double width and instructed him to make a dress for her. After waiting three weeks she went to his place and as the firm refused to go on with the work she took away her cloth. It was only and she now sued for the value of the cloth.

The defendant said he became sick two days after receiving the order and he went to the country. In his absence the plaintiff came to his place and took away the cloth. He was willing now to make the dress.

His Honour—How soon can you finish the dress?—About a week.

His Honour—A week! But the dress is already cut.—I might get it done a little quicker.

The case was adjourned.

THE HILLSIDE MURDER.

INTERESTING SIDELIGHT ON CHINESE LIFE.

The charge of murder preferred against three Chinese was heard at the Magistracy on April 14th before Mr. Kemp. It will be remembered that this was the murder in which two men and a boy were found done to death on the hillside above Shatin in the New Territory. This was in December of 1906 and not until the present time have the police been in a position to bring a charge against any one. Mr. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. Otto Kong Sing defended Wong Chan Kwai and Tsau Mau Fat while Mr. S. Dixon from the office of Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for Wong Sam He. The names of the victims were Luk Sang, Wong Sam Sau and Wong Ting Fat.

Mr. Bowley in opening the case for the Crown, said that on the 6th December, 1906, the corpses of three Chinese, two men and a boy, were found on the top of the hill between Kowloon Peak and Shatin. They were cut about the heads and necks and numerous deep wounds apparently inflicted by a chopper or similar instrument were found on their bodies. Proceeding he stated that Luk Sang was the man against whom the crime was plotted. He had been a steward on various steamers running between Hongkong and America and at the last was employed on the "Minnesota." He found this employment profitable and he had a house in Kowloon city where his wife and mother lived. He had no children. In August 1906 having completed a second or third trip on the "Minnesota" there was some change in the duties on the steamer and he decided to stay at home for a time. During his residence ashore he seems to have taken up the study of geomancy or fung shui. He spent most of his time selecting grave sites and looking after the graves of his ancestors. He seemed anxious that his grandfather, who was buried in the cemetery at Kowloon, should have a more respectable resting place and he searched the hills for a suitable site. The second prisoner, who lived at Kowloon city, was also a geoman and he naturally expected that Luk Sang would make use of his services. When he heard that Luk Sang was not going to engage him he became very angry and called at the house and demanded money saying "You may select your grave without my assistance but if you do your head will drop off within seven days. If that does not happen I will break my compass (the geoman's badge of office) or leave Kowloon." When Luk Sang went visiting on the hills he was accompanied by the other two. In his possession were a watch and chain, a diamond ring, thirty Mexican dollars, and a revolver. When the three did not return home Luk Sang's wife went to the first prisoner who informed her that Luk Sang had called there and gone on further. He had come back and gone a second time so she did not need to worry. Subsequently the bodies were discovered, but the police could not trace the perpetrators. They decided to await the return of one Chan Yau who had been employed as a blacksmith in connection with the construction of a military road. When he returned a few weeks ago he was arrested. He confessed that the three prisoners called at his place on the 28th November 1906 when they enjoyed an opium pipe. They decided they must have some money. On the 2nd December they turned up at his place again and one said if they could meet Luk Sang they could easily get some \$100. They went out to look for him and came upon him on the hill. The first and second prisoners asked him where the grave was and when he turned round to point to the place the second prisoner hit him on the neck and knocked him down. They afterwards killed the second man when he came up and becoming frightened they also murdered the boy.

Evidence was called and the case adjourned.

A "thunderbolt" fell in Japan on the parade ground of the Kumamoto Division while military exercises were in progress on March 30. One Cavalryman, an Infantry private, and two horses were killed on the spot. Another private was injured.

LOCAL POETRY.

HONGKONG.

Fair Isle of Streams in Oriental Seas
Why are thy beauties all unsung?
Is it that languorous life of Eastern ease
Like harp laid by, and long unstrung
Wants tuning up to realize
The glorious harmonies of thy skies,
When nightly from thy hill-tops seen
The Sun sinks down in saffron sheen;

Or is it that the grasping hope
Of moiling manhood "making piles"
Leaves little time and less of scope
To turn our eyes, where Nature smiles
A welcome, to the man forgetting
Our sordid round of dollar-getting,
From green hill sides and tumbling brooks
God's current accounts and ledger books.—

Or do we—a la sinologue,
Search in Cathayan scripts of bygone age
To borrow from the manners then in vogue
Some love-hints from a pre-Confucian Sage?—
Blind to the beauty of the living hour,
Whose diana and rain-drops of the passing shower,
Caught on the branches from the skies
Point sparkling similes for our dearest's eyes.

Or is it that we make "No Trumps"
In atmosphere of smoke and whisky
Midst capacious men and female frumps
Who bore us into declaration risky?
For out-of-doors, the birds are singing
And from the verdure, flowers are springing,
Calling us to a simpler life—
A moral anodyne for our petty strife,—

Or do we affect the cult athlete
At polo, cricket, golf or hockey
Or spurn the ball with nimble feet
Or ape the simian style of modern jockey,
Until the setting of that emerald Vale,
Wherein we romp and term it "Happy,"
Is seen but dimly, through a veil,
Of training tracks or bunkers trappy.

Or is it that our small affairs
(An ancient plaint in lay Poration)
The narrow, carking, daily cares
Are rendered worse, by servants Asian?
So that her eyes' far distant gaze
Sees not the isles in summer haze,
Nor yet the shimmer on the split seas
But mental reckoning make to cut down
"squeeze"—

Or is it only that we fail
To voice the lyric that we feel?
Or is it that we fear the flail
Of vulgar jest, or satir's steel?
Whatever the cause, the fact remains,
Unwilling mine or want of brains,
Our Isle of running Streams—Hongkong—
Though worthy—lacks a poet's song.—
SARDONICUS.

THE GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the nineteenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday 27th April, reads:—
Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders a statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December 1907.

The net profit, after providing for depreciation on Buildings and Machinery, Launches Lighters &c. and including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amounts to \$406,078.16 which it is proposed to deal with as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund ... \$1,000.00
To pay a final Dividend of 75 cents per share on 400,000 shares \$300,000.00
Add. Interim dividend of 50 cents on 200,000 shares 100,000.00 400,000.00
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account ... 5,078.16

The Capital of the Company was increased by special Resolution in March last to \$4,000,000.

Consulting Committee.—The Hon. W. J. Gresson having left the Colony, the Hon. H. Keswick was invited to take his place on the Consulting Committee. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. H. Keswick and Dr. J. W. Noble retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O' D. Gourdin, who are recommended for re election.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO.
General Managers.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1908.

Statement of Accounts for the year 1907.
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$	c.
Interest	50,321.32	
Auditor's fees	600.00	
Consulting committee's fees	4,000.00	
Amount written off as depreciation	84,974.88	
Interim dividend	100,000.00	
Balance	396,078.16	496,708.16
	\$545,974.86	
Balance brought forward from 1906	10,804.27	
Profit on sale of 935 New Shares	4,067.25	
Exchange	51.11	
Balance from working account		
Sales of cement	520,548.93	
Sales of bricks, pipes etc.,	10,593.30	531,052.23
	\$545,974.86	

BALANCE SHEET.

Capital:—	\$	c.
400,000 shares at \$10 fully paid up	4,000,000.00	
Reserve fund	11,000.00	
Sundry creditors	124,214.24	
Company's banker	319,800.47	
Balance of profit and loss account	406,078.16	
Less interim dividend	100,000.00	396,078.16
	\$4,761,092.87	
Green Island, Macao:—		
Buildings and machinery as per last statement	426,900.00	
Less depreciation	25,600.00	
	\$401,300.00	
Since expended	55,830.98	457,130.98
Cement, raw material, stores, etc., in stock valued at	262,163.68	
Hok Tin, Hongkong:—		
Land	1,097,192.00	
Since expended	134,776.88	
1,001,891 square feet valued at	1,231,968.88	
Buildings and machinery	672,074.83	
Less depreciation	41,374.88	
	\$630,700.00	
Since expended	297,126.23	927,826.23
Cement, raw material, stores, etc., in stock value at	936,954.47	
Deep Water Bay Works:—		
Land	3,500.00	
Buildings and machinery	178,400.00	
Less depreciation	10,730.00	
	167,670.00	
Since expended	24,155.96	191,825.96
Bricks, pipes, etc., in stock valued at	101,933.48	
On consignment valued at	2,242.24	104,175.72
Property at Shek Wai Teng (Canton)	42,300.00	
Cement on consignment valued at	42,412.59	
Office furniture as per last statement	400.00	
Less depreciation	50.00	350.00
Sundry debtors	395,139.45	
Value of premia on unexpired policies	2,841.12	
Steam Launch, Steam Lighter, Lighter, Junk etc., as per last statement	137,100.00	
Less depreciation	8,220.00	
	128,880.00	
Since expended	53,872.02	182,352.02
Cash on hand	8,951.81	
	\$4,761,092.87	

JUNK BAY MILL.

As a result of Mr. Rennie's death and the difficult position in which the big concern at Junk Bay is now placed milling operations have been temporarily suspended. The mill and stock have been taken over by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.

The inquiry into the circumstances of the death of Mr. A. H. Rennie will take place at the Magistracy on Tuesday afternoon.

JAPAN.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Tokyo, March 31st.

TRADE PROSPECTS.

A large portion of the vernacular press is considering what it describes as the adverse balance in Japan's foreign trade, namely, the great preponderance of import, which preponderance is showing continued increase over the value of exports. It is estimated that at the present rate this year's trade will show an excess in the value of imports of over a hundred million yen, and the financial condition of the country considered, this prospect is regarded with very pessimistic eyes. But a highly-protectionist country like Japan must expect these reverses, for she invites them by her attitude towards the world's trade. Japan might be the England of the East in other ways than in a geographical sense, but in commerce she will never reach such a standard with her present tariff policy.

COMMERCIAL VICISSITUDES.

Some of the press, foreign as well as Japanese, are giving too much importance to the failure or temporary suspension of banks in different parts of the country. No bank of the first class has yet closed its doors, and a good proportion of the failure can be attributed to speculation or other bad management which should be guarded against by all bankers. The suspensions are largely due to resulting from any sort of rumour. Some banks have met these runs with ready cash, but because a bank is forced to suspend on a run it does not prove it to be in a bad position. No one (except depositors, presumably) expects a bank to keep money idle, and the most prosperous may find itself awkwardly situated should its depositors suddenly demand a large sum. There is no doubt that, commercially, the situation is bad. Many native firms have failed and the foreign firm is lucky which is doing a good business at the present time. But despite a national policy which must tend to aggravate the position, it is impossible for such a condition of things to last. What is Japan's complaint at present is the complaint of America, Germany, and other countries—where the seizure has been more severe—and the slightest improvement abroad will stimulate the vitality of the Japanese.

THE CABINET CHANGES.

While the reconstruction of the Cabinet and the significance of the changes may not possess much interest for the public abroad, the ministerial changes in Japan, recently reported in your telegraphic service, are of much more than ordinary interest, for an entirely new departure has been made which is worth explanation. The most noteworthy thing about the appointments is that two members of the House of Peers have entered the Cabinet and that hitherto the House of Peers has held aloof from political power, contenting itself largely with checking the measures of the lower house and preserving its noble privileges and prejudices. The new Minister for Communications, Viscount Hotta, is the leader in the House of Peers of the Kenku-kai, which is the party of viscounts, about eighty strong, and occupies a position of predominance similar to that of the Seiyu-kai in the lower house, while Baron Senge the new Minister of Justice, is the leader of the Mokuyu-kai, or barons party, about sixty strong. By taking these two influential leaders into the Cabinet, the government has greatly strengthened its position, both in view of the forthcoming elections and in its relations with the upper house, which has always been a stern and independent critic of government measures reserved and dignified and in great contrast to the House of Representatives. Wise as this departure is, however, it may have very little effect in the general elections to take place in May, for unless we read the signs of the times wrongly these elections will show that the Japanese voter has at last wakened up to the importance of his vote.

RACECOURSE BETTING AND A PATERNAL GOVERNMENT.

The government has issued some racecourse regulations which would force a smile from a sphynx. For some months past, what with the contradictions of its attitude towards lotteries in Formosa and Japan and towards gambling on and off a racecourse, it has been on the

horns of a dilemma. Here is the substance of regulations issued by the Horse Administration Bureau:—Uniformed attendants to be employed on racecourses, admission to grand stand not less than 5 yen, to paddock stand 3 yen; students and minors not to be admitted; spectators to be quiet and respectably dressed; officials to suspend races when (1) race company deemed guilty of unfair conduct, (2) races considered dangerous, (3) when disorderly scenes are apprehended or public decency considered in danger of violation; no female admitted to pari-mutuel offices, the betting quarter to be constructed so as not to be seen from outside and separated from the grand stand as far as possible; pari-mutuel tickets to be 10 yen, and newspapers not to be utilised in a manner to instigate the gambling spirit of the public. Reading these regulations makes one feel that a race course is not by any means a respectable place of resort, but from the point of view of the various companies the following rules regarding distribution of profits are not by any means encouraging:—Of net profits 10 per cent. to reserve; 80 per cent. to be used (1) as subsidy and for prizes for horse exhibitions (2) as encouragement to breeders of winners, (3) for promoting horsemanship and purposes calculated to improve the breed. The remaining 10 percent is to be given to charity. The only profits the companies are supposed to keep for themselves they may not use, i.e. the 10 per cent. to reserves. No one can expect those regulations to go unchallenged, and it will be interesting to watch results. The share of some of these companies were recently scoring high but the new regulations will send them as low as Tokyo railways. It is interesting to note that these regulations do not apply to the Nippon Race Club, Yokohama, a foreign institution which was not established for profit but for sport. Admission to the grand stand here is ten yen and paddock stand five yen.

THE LATE BARON JWASAKI.

The Japanese press have not been stinting in their praise of the late Baron Jwasaki, head of the Mitsu Bishi, builder-up of the Jwasaki family, and one of the great pioneers of modern Japanese commerce. It is characteristic of the dominating faculty in the successful man of commerce that his only public appointment, the term he spent several years ago as governor of the Bank of Japan, should have been cut short by a dispute with officialdom. This was a disagreement with the Minister of Finance, who was then no other than Mr. Matsuda the present holder of the portfolio.

INTERESTING MOUNTAIN TRIP POSTPONED.

Some enterprising newspaper men of Nagano prefecture, Central Japan, recently arranged for a trip of exploration to the summit of Yaregatake, in the wild region known as the Japanese alps that lies between Fuji and the coast. Recently the mountain has been very active, its summit having been blown off by volcanic action, and the trip was designed to find out the extent of the "damage." The mountain, about ten thousand feet, being fully exposed to the north, is considered much more difficult of ascent than Fuji, not only on account of its more rugged formation but because of the colder temperature. The trip was fixed at the earliest possible date, to-morrow April 1st, but it has now been deferred till August on account of the unusually heavy snow making the ascent impracticable. There is a splendid holiday district here for Chinamen who like roughing it as a variation to the miseries of the civilised life. The very atmosphere must give new life to the jaded old treaty port hand.

MR. STEVENS' ASSASSINATION.

Whatever injustice Korea labours under and whatever difficulties Japan is trying to overcome in the peninsula, the whole situation vis-à-vis the two nations will be more critically studied by America and Europe in consequence of the death of Mr. Stevens at the hands of Koreans. Assassination is the most effective way to attract an indifferent public to political wrongs, real or imaginary, and at the same time it puts a stop to the flow of journalistic rubbish that has been written about Japan and Korea since the war. It is understood that both the Japanese and Korean Governments will give ample compensation to Mr. Stevens' family as a mark of condolence and esteem.

COMMERCIAL.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, April 15th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$960	to	—	per picul.
Malwa Old	\$930	to	—	do.
Malwa Older	\$1020	to	—	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1060	to	—	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$800	to	—	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$880	to	—	do.
Patna New	\$1052½	to	—	per chest.
Patna Old	—	to	—	do.
Benares New	\$1012½	to	—	do.
Benares Old	—	to	—	do.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report dated Hongkong, 15th April, states:—Although the usual annual "Chin Ming" Festival is in full swing, there has been a considerable inquiry on the part of local dealers who would appear to anticipate a brisk Spring demand on the return of country-buyers to market after the turn of the month. Almost all counts have been dealt in, Nos. 10s and 20s attracting by far the largest amount of attention, and forming more than three fourths of the total settlements. Receipts during the interval are moderate and have been overtaken by the off-takes, stocks showing a substantial decrease on last estimate. Prices, although showing here and there some slight fluctuations, are generally steady, and the market closes firm with improved prospects. Bombay is reported quiet but strong. Sales of the interval aggregate 8,862 bales, arrivals amount to 6,918 bales, unsold stock estimated at 25,000 and sold, but uncleared, yarn in second hands at 17,000 bales. Local Manufacture:—No business is reported in these threads. Japanese Yarn:—Nothing doing. Raw Cotton:—Another blank fortnight has been experienced both in Indian and Chinese descriptions. Holders, especially of the former, are anxious sellers and would willingly meet the market, but without an outlet for their purchases dealers will not offer at any price. Estimated unsold stock 4,000 bales Indian and 500 bales Chinese. Quotations are \$20 to \$24 Indian, and \$22 to \$24 Chinese. Exchange on India has been fluctuating for some time past between Rs. 140 and 142, and closes to-day at Rs. 140½ for T/T and Rs. 140½ for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 91. The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the week ended the 4th instant, viz:—Indian:—There has been a good general enquiry at steady to firm prices, total sales aggregating 5,000 bales, and market closing firm. Estimated unsold and uncleared stock 60,000 bales. Japanese:—Market unchanged; sales about 1,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 8½ for Nos. 16s and Tls. 9½ to 99½ for No. 20s. Local:—Sales are reported of 500 bales No. 14 at Tls. 80½.

PIECE GOODS.

From Messrs. Hbert & Co.'s weekly Report, dated Shanghai, 8th April, 1908:—Our market is still dull and stagnant; the wet weather in the Yangtze valley has interfered with the delivery of cargo, and from all sides the same reports of absence of demand arrive day after day; under these circumstances importers are obliged to wait patiently for signs of returning activity, as it is useless to press sales on unwilling buyers, especially as no replacements can be obtained at the rates at which many sales have been made before demand fell off. If it were not for the auctions perhaps a recovery would take place sooner, but when Chinese are forced to buy goods for which there is no inquiry prices fall rapidly, and the market becomes more demoralized than would be the case if public sellers were prepared to feed demand instead of forcing it. So considerable a proportion of certain branches of trade is done by public sale week after week without reserve, that auction prices materially affect the market generally, and add to the depression which recurs from time to time. The rates at which certain kinds of goods are disposed of, especially dyed goods, must represent very heavy losses to the interested; the whole trade would benefit by a change of policy by which auction sellers would regulate supplies were in accordance with demand. Advice from America to March 11 report purchases of 3½ yard drills and 4 yard sheetings for

this market at about the equivalent of current values here, but four small purchases of standard 3-yard sheetings are also reported at 11/4 c.i.f. for April to July shipment, which at 2/6 exchange lays down at about Tls. 4.85 against current quotations of Tls. 4.02½ here to-day. Cotton showed signs of strength in the earlier part of the week advancing to 5.82d. for American, but has since declined to 5.63d. Some authorities express the opinion that there will be a reaction from the present decline as May approaches, and that while good cotton will probably be scarce towards June and July, owing to dull trade, the market will be affected more than is generally the case by reports of the new season's crop. Local cotton is remarkably firm when the absence of Japanese demand is taken into account; notwithstanding official proclamations much of the crop not on offer is damaged by excessive moisture, with which it is adulterated by the countrymen.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s latest Piece Goods Report from Shanghai, date 10th April, states:—The Liverpool Cotton market, which has remained fairly steady throughout the interval, has suddenly dropped ten points at the close, the quotation for Mid-American coming this morning 5.63d. The last price received for "futures" was 5.30d., also a drop of ten points. This steadiness of the Cotton market during the interval has kept Manufacturers at home from making further concessions, and gave a faint ray of hope to holders here, but the sudden decline will fill them with misgivings again, especially as telegrams are being received deprecating buying at present. It is very trying to trade to have to abstain from fresh transactions in face of the ever increasing expenses of maintenance here, but it is the only safe thing to do during this dangerous spell of uncertainty regarding the immediate future course of such important factors as the raw staple and sterling Exchange, not to mention the political unrest, not only of this country at large, but the ever increasing complications with other Powers. This same feeling of unrest, however, seems to be on the simmer all over the world, and a general sense of suspicion of one another's intentions is now pervading all nations. If this depression in trade were confined to China alone some local remedies might be sought for, but unfortunately it is apparently universal and would seem to imply the early advent of some important economic revolution. Never before has such utter stagnation been known here. The year of the Boxer troubles does not approach it, and, besides, then there was some tangible reason; now there is none. The natives here who are interested in this trade are quite as much at a loss to account for the falling off in demand for imported articles as are the Foreign Importers. The depreciation of Copper Cash is their one and only real explanation. The labouring classes who, after all, are the largest consumers, and receive their wages in that form, have to pay 20 to 25 per cent more as the equivalent of the Silver price of imported commodities, and are therefore abstaining as much as possible from investing in new garments, etc., being encouraged in this course by the news, that has no doubt penetrated far and wide, of the lower prices now ruling in the producing centres. Prices in New York are still keeping well over the equivalent of those ruling here. Cotton on that market dropped to 9.33 cents for July but has recovered to 9.43 cents according to telegrams received to-day. The Cargoes carried by the first steamers to Newchwang this season are still unpublished by the Customs. It is reported that goods are moving off from there with more freedom, and according to one foreign authority, who has been recently travelling in Manchuria, the great complaint amongst the Natives was that they were forced to buy Japanese cloths as no American goods were obtainable. It is unfortunate that a controversy has arisen concerning the building of further railways in Manchuria to assist in developing the trade of that vast Province, as well as Mongolia, but it seems more than likely that the opponents thereto may have cause to regret their opposition before long. There is very little demand from Tientsin, but we are assured that stocks there are being gradually worked off. It will be some time yet before this market can feel any benefit from a diminution of the direct import trade to that Port. Chefoo and Kiaochow are doing a steady trade and Ningpo is looking up. The River trade is fair, but there is some congestion above Hankow owing to a lack of water. The Yarn market has been quiet but steady and deliveries still continue satisfactory for all spinnings, the large increase in the export of local Yarns this year

being very marked, being already as much as during the first seven months of last year. Native Cotton keeps quiet but steady. The Proposed lottery scheme by which the Japanese manufacturers hoped to increase the sale of their Yarns in China is now practically doomed, and we must commend the able report the Japanese Consul General at this Port addressed to his Government on the subject, pointing out the indignity of resorting to such measures for the promotion of trade. The business of the week makes a very poor showing, but contrary to all expectation prices at the Auction this morning were relatively much better than those paid yesterday, in not a few instances an improvement being obtained on last week's rates, but almost entirely in the staple makes.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 1st April, 1908.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, Best selected	Tls. 30.25
Do. Seconds	" 26.25
Buffalo hides, Best selected	" 23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	" 40.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	" —
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	" —
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	" —
Green China Grass, Szechuen	" 8.40
Jute	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	" 10.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	" 10.40
Animal Tallow	" 10.30
Gallnuts, usual shape	" 15.30
Gallnuts, plum do.	" 17.60
Tobacco, Pingchow	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong	" —
Turmeric	" —
Sesamum Seed	" 5.50
Sesamum Seed Oil	" —
Wood Oil	" 8.30
Tea Oil	" —

FROM HONGKONG

Per P. & O. str. *Delhi*, sailed on 4th April, 1908. For Hamburg:—19 cases cigars. For Manchester:—142 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case silk piece goods, 16 cases cigars, 2 cases curios. For Lyons:—158 bales raw silk. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—10 cases cigars, 170 bales raw silk, 1 case feathers, 1 case silk embroideries. For London:—12 packages tea, 1 case furs, 6 cases silk, 165 bales waste silk, 152 bales raw silk, 31 cases cigars, 36 cases private effects.

Per M. M. steamer *Tourane*, sailed on 14th April, 1908. For Marseilles:—262 balles soie, 82 balles dichets de soie, 17 caisses porcelaine, 3 caisses soieries, 6 caisses plumes, 3 caisses fleurs, 14 caisses chapeaux, 50 caisses ess. ilang ilang. For Tamatave:—20 caisses provisions. For Milan:—10 balles soie. For Trieste:—50 balles dichets de soie. For Havre:—70 colis thé. For Barcelona:—5 caisses soieries, 2 echons. nattes. For Manchester:—75 balles dichets de soie. For Lyon:—278 balles soie.

Per P. & O. s.s. *Borneo*, sailed on 8th April, 1908. For Liverpool:—1,500 bales hemp. For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—20 cases cigars, 4 bales human hair, 50 bales galangal, 12 bales merchandise. For London:—150 cases camphor, 2,696 bales hemp, 100 rolls matting, 2 cases copperware, 62 cases chinaware, 24 cases woodware, 202 cases canes, 19 cases personal effects, 50 bales merchandise, 20 bales merchandise, 1 case hats, 2 packages rattanware, 100 cases ginger.

THE TRADE OF JAPAN.

The returns of the Foreign Trade of Yokohama to 20th March are as follows:—

	Total from 1st Jan. to 20th March, 1908.
	Yen.
Exports	39,418,931
Imports	35,150,497
Excess in Exports	4,268,434

The Foreign Trade of Nine Open Ports including Yokohama was:—

	Total from 1st Jan. to 20th March, 1908.
	Yen.
Exports	83,880,000
Imports	106,294,000
Excess in Imports	22,614,000

YOKOHAMA.

From the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade Report:—

Cotton Yarns.—The position remains as last reported; values are ruling very low, and there is no new business in report.

Cotton Piece Goods.—The reduced prices have resulted in a few small lots of Grey Printers and White Shirtings being taken for August-September arrival. All other Cotton textiles remain neglected and quotations are quite nominal.

Woollens and Woollen Mixtures.—The market remains very much depressed, but some demand has appeared in the Tokyo market for Serges. Old accumulations are moving off slowly.

Textiles Generally.—The general feeling is that prices are on the down grade, consequently buyers are not disposed to commit themselves at present.

Raw Cotton.—The market still remains lifeless.

Rice.—Rangoon has remained firm, but Saigon has a tendency to weakness. Purchases of the former are reported at Yen 5.70 and the latter at Yen 5.05 per picul c.i.f. cum duty.

Metals.—No business to report since last Circular, but deliveries of goods arriving are satisfactory.

Window Glass.—The situation is unchanged, there being little or no business doing.

Kerosene Oil.—No change. Arrivals and deliveries for the second half of March show: Standard Oil Co., arrivals nil; deliveries 38,200 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co., arrivals 75,000 cases, deliveries 39,500 cases. The steamer Pinna has arrival from Astoria with California Crude for the Nankoku Petroleum Co.

Sugar.—The same as last reported.

Flour.—Market still very dull and but little enquiry. Present stocks held in Yokohama and Tokyo are between 150,000 and 200,000 sacks.

Wheat.—Owing to the continued dullness of the flour market, mills are not placing any fresh business. There is about 15,000 tons of White Walla Walla at present held in Tokyo.

SILK.

Raw Silk.—The downward course of prices continues, and at the close our market is very weak.

Total Settlements from 1st July, 1907, to 29th March, 1908, (including 37,566 bales, shipments by Japanese firm), compared last season 37,718 bales, ... 81,120 piculs.

Against corresponding period—

Season 1906-1907	84,210 piculs.
" 1905-1906	64,230 "
" 1901-1905	86,290 "

The Stock in Yokohama on the 30th March, was 15,780 piculs.

Waste Silk.—Since last report purchases for export have been practically confined to Ribizzos. Export for inferior material quotations are unchanged. Settlements from March 2nd to March 29th, 4,507 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to March 29th, 23,400 piculs. Stock on March 30th is estimated at 16,000 piculs.

Habutai.—Since last report quotations for Kanzawa have still further declined, and the quality of the production has deteriorated to a remarkable extent. There have been considerable enquiries for narrow goods for Europe, but American buyers have only been interested in 27 inch. Prices for high-class Echizen goods, which are extremely scarce, have been fairly well maintained, though the prices for inferior goods, of which there is a considerable quantity on the market, has declined considerably. The demand from abroad has been very limited. Prices for Kawamata have remained much firmer during the last fortnight, and all 20in. have been much in demand, prices for which have been out of all proportion to other widths. The production during the past month in Kawamata has declined from 28,000 to 11,000 pieces.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Copper: Nothing doing though the home markets show a little improvement.

Fish Oil.—Markets dull, no business to report.

TEA.

Total settlements at Yokohama from May 1st to March 30th amount to 101,899 piculs, against 104,309 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th April, 1908.—Owing to the holiday to-morrow, our report is issued a day earlier than usual, and the week to be reported on is a short one. In the early part of the week business was fairly brisk, with rates ruling steady, with in many cases an inclination to strength. Later, however, things slackened off a little and the market closes comparatively quiet, without any special features to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai remain unchanged, with small sales at 692½ and 690 during the week, closing with sellers at the former and buyers at the latter rate. Nationals continue in request at 51, but shares are scarce and we have heard of no sales.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have changed hands at 842½ and later at 840, closing with a tendency to sell. Cantons remain unchanged and without business. In the Northern Insurances we have only to report a change in Yangtszes which are quoted 160 (old) and 145 (new).

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue in demand but few shares appear to be available, and the market closes a strong one at 307½. Chinas are also still enquired for, and only small sales have been effected at 90, the stock closing firm at that rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue a dull market, but some sales have taken place at 29, and there is a further incipient demand at that rate, while some shares are on offer at 29½. China Manilas have advanced to 15½ with buyers without bringing any shares on the market, and at time of closing a sale is reported at 16. Indos continue weak and neglected, without any business to report. Douglasses have been placed at 40, and Star Ferrys at 31 (old), the latter closing in demand. Shells have changed in a small way at 45s.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have ruled firmer, and after small sales at 132 and 133, have found buyers at 135, at which they close firm with sales and further buyers. Luzons unchanged.

MINING.—Raubs have improved, and shares have changed hands at from 8 to 8½, closing with buyers at 8½. Charbonnages are wanted at quotation.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampas ruled firmer during the early part of the week, and shares changed hands at the improved rate of 103½ and 104; the market closes a little easier, with a few shares on the market at 103½. Kowloon Wharves have found buyers to a limited extent at 52½, closing quiet with sellers at 53. Shanghai Docks have shown strength, both here and in Shanghai, with a ruling buying rate of 80; local shares are, however, scarce, and the business transacted has been very limited. New Amoy Docks are enquired for at 9½ ex the dividend of 50c paid on the 13th inst.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands show a further small improvement, and after sales at 99, close with buyers. Kowloon Lands have been placed at 26, and Humphreys at 10 and 10½, the latter closing with buyers at 10. Hongkong Hotels have receded a point to 96, without inducing buyers to come forward. West Points are neglected, with a few shares on offer at quotation.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have further improved in the North to 56, and Hongkong Cottons after sales at 10, are still in demand at that rate. Other stocks under this heading remain unchanged, and without business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have changed hands at 8½ and 9, closing with some shares on offer at 8.90 and buyers at 8½. Dairy Farms have been placed at the improved rate of 19, and Ices at 225. Cement's have been negotiated in fair lots at 11, 11½, and 11.30, closing quiet at 11½. Peak Tramways are firmer with buyers at quotations; and Ropes have improved to 29½, after sales at 28½ and 29. China Lights and Morning Posts are enquired for at quotations but we have heard of no sales. Watsons have been placed at 10.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	Ps. 200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$692½, sellers
National B. of China	£6	London £73-10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$51, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$7½
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 }	\$11, sellers
China Provident	{ \$1 }	\$6, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	\$8½, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	Tls. 56
International	Tls. 75	\$10, sales & buy.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 75
Dairy Farm	\$6	Tls. 200
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$19, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$53, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$103, buyers
Shanghai Dock and		\$9½, x.d., buyers
Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	Tls. 223
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$13, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$11½
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$175
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$16, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$96, sellers
H. K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$190	\$225, sales
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$150
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$29, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$240, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$91, buyers
North China	\$25	\$307½, sal. & buy.
Union	\$100	Tls. 81, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$842½, sellers
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$160
Humphrey's Estate	\$10	\$145
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	
West Point Building	\$50	
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$99, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$10, buyers
Peak Tramways	{ \$10 }	\$13, buyers
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2, buyers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$8, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$135, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$15
H., Canton & M.	\$15	
Indo-China S. N. Co.	\$25	\$16, sales
Shell Transport Co.	\$21	\$50, \$40,
Star Ferry	\$10	\$29½, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$38
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$24
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$45/- sales
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$31 buyers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5
Watkins	\$10	\$15½ buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$23, buyers
Wiesmann Ltd.	\$100	\$6, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	
Do. Founders	\$10	\$15, sellers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$165

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending April 9th, 1908, state:—Business has been very quiet during the last week and there have been no fluctuations of any importance except in Shanghai Land Investment Co. shares, which are now quoted at Tls. 112½ buyers; and a rise of \$10 in Yangtsze Insurance Co. shares owing to a very excellent report. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banks: Business has been done in this stock at \$71½ ex. 73 and the price in London has fallen £1 to £74. The T. T. rate on London to-day is 2/6d. Insurance.—No official business is reported, but Yangtsze Insurance shares are in demand at \$160 for the new. Shipping.—No business reported. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd.: A little forward business has been done in

this stock at Tls. 81 for June. Shanghai & Hongkew Wharves: Business was reported during the week at Tls. 217, Tls. 220 and Tls. 225 cash. Tls. 221, Tls. 224½, Tls. 225, Tls. 226, Tls. 228, Tls. 230, Tls. 232½, Tls. 235 June; closing quiet at Tls. 225 cash and Tls. 232½, June. Sugars.—No business reported. Mining.—Chinese Engineering & Mining Co.: Bearer shares are wanted at Tls. 15½. Lands.—There has been a fair business done in this stock at Tls. 110, Tls. 110½, Tls. 111, Tls. 112 and Tls. 112½ closing with buyers at the latter rate. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas Co. shares are steady at Tls. 106, and Shanghai Waterworks Co. shares have changed hands at Tls. 360 ex div. China Flour Mills are wanted at Tls. 56, but no shares offering. Ewo Cottons are in demand for June at Tls. 58½. In the early part of the week a small business was done at Tls. 56 and Tls. 57 for June. Laon Kung Mow Cotton Mills: An operation is reported in this stock at Tls. 80 for June. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkats: The price of this stock has been steady during the week. The market closed with sellers at Tls. 460 cash and Tls. 470 June. Sumatras: A recovery took place in this stock and business was done at Tls. 92½, Tls. 95, Tls. 97½ June and Tls. 95 cash. Shanghai Electric Construction Co. shares: A further decline has to be noted in this stock to £10.5.0d. Miscellaneous.—Telephones: A small lot of shares changed hands at Tls. 55. Messrs. Weeks & Co. shares are quoted at \$23. Dunning & Co. at \$50 and there are sellers of Hall & Holtz at \$23. Lands and Debentures.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY, April 16th

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	233½
Credits 4 months' sight	238½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	190
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	45½
Credits, 60 days' sight	46½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank, on demand	140½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	140½
Bank on demand	140½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	91
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	91½
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	24½ p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	112
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	7 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	6½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	78½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.60
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per taal	\$ 5.35
BAR SILVER, per oz	25½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$3.58 discount,
"	10 " "	9.05 "
Hongkong	20 " "	8.15 "
"	10 " "	8.60 "

FREIGHTS.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, 9th April.—There has been very little doing on our Homeward Freight market during the past fortnight and the ships on the various berths, including the mails, have received but poor support. Coastwise.—Business has been a little more brisk since last writing and there is a fair demand for tonnage from the North and also from River Ports to the South whilst coal freights are also being well maintained all round.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

April—

ARRIVALS.

10. C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
10. Den of Airlie, British str., from Antwerp.
10. Goldmouth, British str., from Singapore.
10. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Swatow.
10. Knivsberg, German str., from Pakhoi.
10. Kowloon, German str., from Wakamatsu.
10. Kwei ang, British str., from Chefoo.
10. Taming, British str., from Manila.
10. Ulv, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
10. Wye, British str., from New York.
11. Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
11. Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Foochow.
11. Eiger, Norwegian str., from Swatow.
11. Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
11. Gregory Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
11. Kageshima M., Jap. str., from Singapore.
11. Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kuchinozu.
11. Myrtledene, British str., from Hongay.
11. Nirvana, French yacht, from Marseilles.
11. Pitsanulok, German str., from Bangkok.
11. Yushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
12. Headley, British str., from New York.
12. Banri Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
12. Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
12. Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Kuchinozu.
12. Shoshu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
12. Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
13. Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
13. Glensarn, British str., from Singapore.
13. Hunsang, British str., from Saigon.
13. Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
13. Japan, British str., from London.
13. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
13. Tamba Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.
13. Tranquebar, Danish str., from Moji.
13. Zafro, British str., from Manila.
14. Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
14. Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
14. Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.
14. China, Am. str., from San Francisco.
14. Haitan, French str., from Haiphong.
14. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
14. Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
14. Nord, British str., from Wenchow.
14. Northbrook, British transport, from Taku.
14. Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.
14. Reider, Norwegian str., from Moji.
14. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
14. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
15. Bourbor, French str., from Saigon.
15. Denbighshire, Brit. str., from Singapore.
15. Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
15. Oceana, British str., from Bombay.
15. Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
15. Titan, British str., from Liverpool.
15. Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Amoy.
15. Tjilong, Dutch str., from Macassar.

April—

DEPARTURES.

10. Belgravia, German str., for Singapore.
10. Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
10. Kaisow, British str., for Sourabaya.
10. Kiuking, British str., for Shanghai.
10. Kwangtab, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
10. Paoing, British str., for Ningpo.
11. Alesia, Ger. str., for Moji and Portland.
11. America M., Jap. str., for San Francisco.
11. Fooksang, British str., for Singapore.
11. Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
11. Ka fong, British str., for Amoy.
11. Levanzo, Italian str., for Singapore.
11. Loongseng, British str., for Manila.
11. Wye, British str., for Yokohama.
12. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
12. Den of Airlie, British str., for Shanghai.
12. Heim, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
12. J. Diederichsen, German str., for Hoihow.
12. Kageshima Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
12. Matilda Korner, Ger. str., for Hongay.
12. Singan, British str., for Hoihow.
12. Telemachus, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
12. Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
13. Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
13. Mandasan M., Jap. str., for Ocean Island.
14. Bangkok, German str., for Bangkok.
14. Eiger, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
14. Headly, British str., for Shanghai.
14. Japan, British str., for Shanghai.
14. Kwanglae, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
14. Nanchang, British str., for Amoy.
14. Oceano, British str., for Wakamatsu.
14. Samsen, German str., for Swatow.
14. Shakano Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
14. Tosa Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
14. Tourane, French str., for Europe, &c.

15. Chatham, British str., for Callao.
15. Fukushu Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
15. Glensarn, British str., for Shanghai.
15. Goldmouth, British str., for Takau.
15. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
15. Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
15. Kiangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
15. Knivsberg, German str., for Pakhoi.
15. Kohsichang, German str., for Swatow.
15. Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
15. Tamba Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
15. Taming, British str., for Manila.
15. Tranquebar, Danish str., for Saigon.

PASSENGERS

ARRIVED.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Trévoux and Clavier; from Singapore, Messrs. Coeharet, Van Andel and Yamasaki; from Saigon, Messrs. S. C. Ismail, A. L. Stein, V. W. Ryan, Eachot, Chapuis, Antonio Bias, Mera Candide, R.P. O'Coopmann, Soeur Mathilde, Soeur Antonie, Soeur Adeline, Mad. Allen, and Mr. Jousaun; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. & Mrs. Dopfeld, Messrs. E. Munder & Overlant; from Colombo, Mr. Eestonjee Matha; from Singapore, Messrs. Moine and Tomsic; from Saigon, Messrs. Ferrand, Cazeau and servant, and H. Ros; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Messrs. D. Jurgens and L. Devineau; from Singapore, Mr. Okamoto; from Saigon, Mrs. Okamoto Kozisu; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. Mody, Tacher, Degay, Dampierre and Roux; from Colombo, Messrs. F. H. Oldfield, S. K. Zapat and Murchison; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Wal, and Mrs. Teichenberg; from Saigon, Messrs. Riback and Allory.

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Per *China*, from San Francisco via Ports Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Crane and infant, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Dickie, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Van Valkenburgh, Misses J. B. Shafer, J. R. Shafer and M. Debeel, Messrs. Chas. Conran, Fritz L. Reed, J. Boyd, J. H. Shafer, J. Debeel, A. H. Silverstone and C. L. Rocha.

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DEPARTED.

Per *Australien*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Boden, Dr. and Mrs. Monaco, Miss M. Gibson, Rev. P. B. Gimenez, Messrs. A. Moir, A. Haimon, E. Fregolini and Kim; for Kobe, Mr. Geo. Rosewall; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Mareillac, Mr. and Mrs. Pasquier, Messrs. E. Lund and Laubie.

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